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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MCCOLLUM).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 16, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BETTY MCCOLLUM to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2020, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

REJECTING LIBERAL LOCKDOWNS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, liberal Governors across the country have shown they know nothing about good governance.

Many times I have heard impassioned speeches from my Republican colleagues on how liberal Governors running their States have gone off the deep end. Today, I am here to share North Carolina's story.

For months, Governor Roy Cooper has avoided numerous opportunities to keep North Carolina open for business. He imposed phases of reopening that only caused more businesses to go under while he claimed it was the best option.

Now he believes a 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew will somehow eliminate COVID-19 altogether. What this curfew will do in the end is remind North Carolinians that their Governor has no idea what he is doing.

COVID-19 is not a creature that roams the streets in the dead of night and retreats to its burrow once day-break hits. This is a virus. Necessary safety precautions can be taken to protect yourself, your loved ones, and those around you.

But when ill-conceived directives from Governor Cooper come into play, North Carolinians begin to question where the ambition ends and where leadership begins.

The American people hear time and time again that we must follow the science, but when we question the science that is used to justify lockdowns, we seldom receive true clarity.

We can all agree that the imperative here is to protect people from the scourge of the virus. That is abundantly clear. However, that imperative becomes horribly diluted when State and local economies suffer, people lose their jobs, and ends can't be met because of lockdowns. That is the sad reality of what lockdowns can do.

I have a message for Governor Cooper: Your abject failures during this pandemic have hurt the livelihoods of people who are proud to call North Carolina home. The last thing North Carolinians need is a bureaucrat sitting in the Governor's mansion who hands down blanketed mandates.

Hopefully, Governors across the country, including yourself, will look to common sense as a guide moving

forward; but based on what has been done to date, you would probably squander that opportunity, too.

Leadership is not a foreign concept. So why not lead the right way and put aside your desire to see North Carolina closed for business?

North Carolina is an economic powerhouse because of its hardworking citizens who show up to work and get the job done. It is high time it is treated that way.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

HONORING THE LIVES OF GUADALUPE AND MARIA LOPEZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GARCÍA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Guadalupe and Maria Lopez, who were taken from us by COVID-19 in Chicago only a few weeks ago.

Like thousands during this pandemic, their children—Erica, Richie, and Andy—weren't even able to say a proper good-bye.

Guadalupe and Maria were loving parents, grandparents, and active members of the community who raised their family in Archer Heights in Chicago.

Lupe, as most people knew him, was a beloved 911 dispatcher for 33 years. Chicago police officers described him as a "voice of security and reassurance" who guided them on the radio through some of the most dangerous situations. Colleagues remember him as always ready to help jump-start a car or change a tire, even after a long, stressful shift.

Maria owned an income tax service in my neighborhood of Little Village. She served the community and, particularly, immigrants with kindness and dedication.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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